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### Evangelical Hospital Association: Seventy-five and Soaring, 1906-1981

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Evangelical Hospital Association



*Seventy-five and soaring*



# Remembrances and Reflections

History of the  
Evangelical Hospital  
Association  
1906-1981

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It's not the years that count.  
It's what we've done with them.



# To Soar

An organization such as ours may conjure a number of images in our minds, but the notion of "soaring" is perhaps one of the least frequent. Still, we think it is the most accurate way to describe our feelings about ourselves, our sense of direction as a health care provider, and our confidence in our future.

The Evangelical Hospital Association's progress has been truly dynamic. Where once we were a 60-bed city hospital, our current 1,600 beds make us one of the largest health care systems in the metropolitan Chicago area. Where once we offered only hospital-based programs, our diverse services now help promote "wellness" through educational programs, provide housing for the elderly, bring training for future health professionals, and deliver community-based programs that eliminate or reduce the need for hospitalization.

Our motivation stems from a Christian philosophy that manifests itself through actions. In the past several years, Evangelical Hospital Association has gone beyond the traditional boundaries of a health care organization by providing management assistance to troubled hospitals; by developing needed, but unmet, medical services; and by introducing programs that address the spiritual needs of patients and their families.

The occasion of our seventy-fifth anniversary gives us cause to celebrate all the contributions of our physicians, our employees, and our volunteers and to take stock of all that lies before us. With your continued trust and support, we will set upon our journey, firm in our sense of purpose and filled with the confidence such flights of courage require. . . . For ours is a soaring of the human spirit.



Margaret K. Morton, Chairman  
75th Anniversary Committee  
Board of Directors  
Evangelical Hospital Association



*Seventy-five and soaring*

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Written by  
Paul Martin

Designed by  
Richmond A. Jones



# A Commitment

Today the Evangelical Hospital Association does more business and provides more services in four days than it furnished in an entire year in the 1920s. While the increase in *quantity* is impressive, the emphasis throughout EHA's past 75 years has been to maintain the *quality* of care for every person we serve.

An examination of the Scriptures reveals that Jesus spent more time healing than he did preaching. Our tradition of active Christian commitment in helping the sick dates back at least as far as 335 A.D. when the decree of Constantine led to development of hospitals in Rome, Constantinople, Ephesus and other parts of the Roman Empire.



Louis Pasteur  
National Library of Medicine

Ambulance circa 1900  
National Archives



A religious awareness of the need for social assistance in time of illness became highly developed during the Middle Ages, and this is reflected in EHA's continuing commitment to serve areas of need — such as the inner city. From its beginning in 1906, Evangelical Hospital cared for those who could pay, and those who could not. Through the years, the indigent from the Chicago metropolitan area were frequently referred to the hospital from local churches.

In the 19th Century, Louis Pasteur, Lord Lister and Florence Nightingale had a great deal to do with sparking the phenomenal growth and acceptance of hospitals in Western civilization. Florence Nightingale organized nursing and made it a respected profession with high standards. Louis Pasteur's development of the germ theory and Lord Lister's application of it made modern surgery possible. In addition, advances in anesthesia in the 19th Century made longer and more difficult operations possible.

Advances after World War II in sophisticated diagnostic techniques, nuclear medicine, new therapies and drugs have created similar breakthroughs in diagnosis and treatment.

However, our hospitals have continued to emphasize the critical role of one human being caring for another as the foundation of our mission. The commitment of hospital employees to the patients makes a significant difference and provides a healing atmosphere of Christian love that recognizes the interconnection of spirit, mind and body.

A woman in her 50s who was a patient in Christ Hospital last year put it this way: "One of the important memories of my stay at the hospital is that the nurses and other employees were really concerned about me as a *human being*. They obviously cared about me as they cared for me, and that was a major factor in making my stay easier. I'm grateful for the spiritual climate that helped my recovery."

Where the religious institution has truly tried to maintain its relationship with its spiritual principles it makes a powerful difference. Healing means to make whole, and one of the emphases of EHA has been to stress this wholeness to our treatment approach. Recognizing that complex technology is a means not an end, our hospitals attempt to foster a right relationship between the individual and God, the individual and his fellowman and, finally, the individual and himself.



**W**e're working steadily to battle rising costs. For instance, in 1946, hospital costs averaged \$9.39 a day. A typical patient stayed 9.1 days for a total cost of \$85.45. By 1978 the average cost had skyrocketed to \$221.90 a day. Although the average stay had dropped to 7.6 days, the total cost had reached \$1,686.44. One of the reasons for this is that during this 32-year period, hospital payroll costs per patient went from \$4.98 to about \$90. Our objective continues to be care that is effective and efficient as it reflects Christian principles.

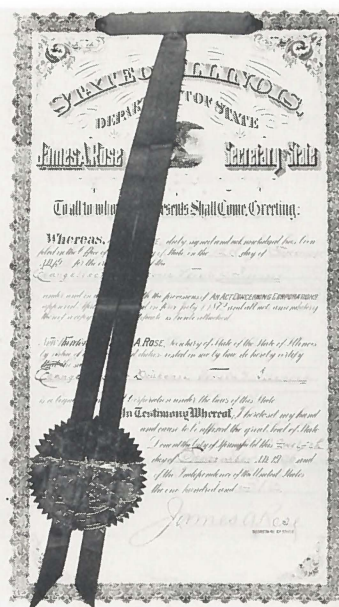
In the midst of constant change, one of the especially positive factors I see is a growing closeness between the church and its institutions. This is a reversal of the trend during the 1960s and early '70s when many wanted to move outside the church to render service. There was an emphasis on issues rather than programs during those years. This stemmed from the view that dealing with an issue somehow resolved the problem. In fact, however, this failed because there was no follow-through to create a program that could be implemented. Today, there is an increasing awareness of the need to combine an understanding of the theological implications of an issue with a program that can be implemented into, and through, the institution.

The ecologist Dr. Barry Commoner has said there are three laws to ecology: 1) Everything is connected to everything else; 2) Everything has to go somewhere; and 3) There's no such thing as a free lunch.

One of the prime lessons of the Evangelical Hospital Association's 75 years has been that everything is connected to everything else. Spiritual principles blended with loving human beings and superior technology create a healing climate that encourages wholeness . . . of the body, the mind and the spirit.

*Paul F. Umbeck*

Paul F. Umbeck, D.D.  
President  
Evangelical Hospital Association



Original charter for the Evangelischer Diakonie Verein of Illinois.



Spiritual principles blended with loving human beings and superior technology create a healing climate that encourages wholeness.



# Evangelical Hospital Association History

Miss Olga Gerhardt is a smiling, bright-eyed lady who graduated from the Evangelical Hospital School of Nursing in 1917. Now 83, she lives alone in a comfortable home on Chicago's southwest side and says, "The Lord has been so good to me. I have wonderful neighbors who take me shopping. This last spring I grew beautiful tomatoes, string beans and carrots. Some of the tomatoes weighed almost a pound."

Miss Gerhardt worked as a nurse until she retired in 1962 and considers it a magnificent career. "I encourage young women to become nurses," she says.

"A Christian commitment makes a big difference in helping a patient," says Olga Gerhardt. "I always looked at patients as if they were my mother or father and cared for them in that spirit. Patients can tell if you're really interested in them."

The following pages describe the history of the Evangelical Hospital Association's 75 years of Christian commitment to helping the sick. It's the story of thousands of men and women like Olga Gerhardt who translate their spiritual beliefs into daily action to bring comfort and healing to the sick.

We invite you to read it.

Christ Hospital and the Evangelical School of Nursing in Oak Lawn, United Church Residences and Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove, Good Shepherd Hospital in Barrington, Woodlawn Hospital and Bethany Hospital in Chicago, the EHA Corporate Headquarters in Oak Brook; all stem from a vision in the minds and hearts of Benjamin Ott, Louis Kohlmann, Hermann Muller, Paul Foerster and Fred Kressmann.

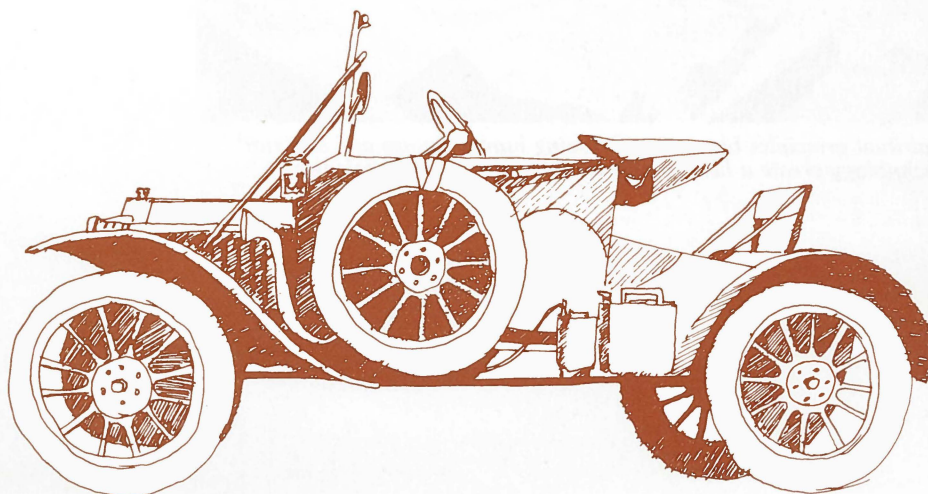
**I**n 1906 Rev. Ott sent a call to the congregations of the Evangelical Church in Chicago to organize a deaconess society. After a meeting at Salem Church in Chicago, Rev. Ott and the other four men applied for a corporation charter to James A. Rose, Illinois secretary of state. The date was September 12, 1906, the fee was \$10 and the charter was issued on September 30, 1906, to the Evangelischer Diakonie Verein of Illinois.

The corporation's purpose was "to maintain and support a hospital and deaconess home in which sick are nursed by educated and trained deaconesses and in which deaconesses receive training."

Money went far in those days. The 1908 Sears catalog offered a cast iron Acme stove that burned anything and could be bought for \$4.95. On page 596 the reader learned that for \$1700 and Sears free building plans he could build, paint and complete a beautiful eight-room house, ready for occupancy. A 1908-model Josephine bicycle cost only \$16.95.

In 1909 Henry Ford's first Model T appeared with a price of \$850. By 1924 the Model T was available to everyone for only \$290.

In this financial climate the cornerstone of the two-story hospital with an English basement was laid in the fall of 1910 at 5421 S. Morgan St. in Chicago. The German Evangelical Deaconess Hospital was finished and dedicated on August 22, 1911. It included offices, laboratories, operating rooms and 60 beds. The total contract price for the building was \$19,950.18.



The "Old Guard" at Evan. in 1910 included Dr. J. A. Waska, Dr. C. F. Weinberger, Dr. W. H. Buhlig, Dr. W. O. Rickfort and Dr. G. H. Mundt, (l. to r.).



The original hospital staff included J. Brenneman, W. H. Buhlig, A. R. Edwards, F. C. Eggert, F. Menge, W. E. Morgan, G. H. Mundt, W. O. Rickfort, E. R. Scholton, C. A. Stevens, J. A. Waska and C. F. Weinberger.

Between dedication and the end of 1911 the hospital treated 177 patients and six babies were born there. Total income reached \$3,553.51.

With World War I raging in Europe in 1914 the United States danced to the "Castle Walk" popularized by Vernon and Irene Castle. Phonograph sales soared and restaurant owners made room for dancers doing the "Gotham Gobble," the "Grizzly Bear" and the "Bunny Hug."

On April 2, 1917, the United States declared war against Germany and the nation sang "Over There" as sauerkraut became "Liberty Cabbage" and dachshunds were christened "Liberty Pups." The hospital changed its name from German Evangelical Deaconess Hospital to Evangelical Deaconess Hospital.



*While this doughboy was fighting battles in WWI, the Evangelical Deaconess Hospital was experiencing a rapidly increasing patient census.*

In writing the annual report for 1918, Rev. Frederick Weber, the superintendent, said "Thanks be to God that we were able to absolve our obligations in spite of the high cost of living, that there was no need to cut short our expenses for charity work . . . The necessity of enlarging our hospital is so evident to everyone connected with our institutions that we do not need to put this fact forth with special emphasis. On the other hand, the patronage of our hospital has in-

creased so rapidly that we must constantly refuse patients on account of our limited capacity."

In 1918 rates for private rooms were \$21 to \$30 a week, ward beds \$14 to \$15 a week, semi-private beds \$17 to \$18 a week. These rates include room, board and services of the floor nurse and intern.

By 1920 the hospital had grown to such an extent that it was overcrowded and patients had to be accommodated on porches and in corridors. The patient load had risen to 3,000; 338 births occurred; and total income soared to \$86,018.99. Hospital costs had gone up slightly in 1920 and hospital beds ranged anywhere from \$2.75 a day to a top cost of \$6.

That year the country's first radio broadcast was beamed from KDKA in Pittsburgh on election night in 1920 as the announcer told a handful of listeners that Warren G. Harding was the next president of the United States. Some \$2 million was invested in crystal sets that year, and by 1930 the country was spending \$600 million a year on radios.

World War I ended formally January 10, 1920, with the signing of the Versailles Treaty in Paris. April 27 of the next year the Allies presented the Germans with a bill for \$132 billion for reparations for the "War to End All Wars."

Against a backdrop of international tension and domestic economic problems, the hospital continued its steady growth. The pressures for larger accommodations produced a building fund with subscriptions that reached \$120,000, a major step forward but inadequate to implement the plans drawn by the architect.

Expenditures called for \$361,237.11 directed toward building the south wing and the power house of the greater Evangelical Hospital. A mortgage bond issue of \$250,000 was quickly sold and the building was completed, equipped and dedicated. It opened on Sunday, September 9, 1923. Total indebtedness at this date had been reduced to \$80,000.

It was an uncomfortable year for President Warren G. Harding who complained that his friends had been indicted and he was unable to save them from jail. Said Harding, "My God, this is some job. I have no trouble with my enemies but my friends, they're the ones who keep me walking the floor nights."

In 1923 audiences flocked to see Cecil B. DeMille's original "Ten Commandments." Radios blared "Yes, We Have No Bananas."

*In 1918 rates for private rooms were \$21 to \$30 a week, ward beds \$14 to \$15 a week, semi-private \$17 to \$18 a week. These rates included room, board and services of the floor nurse and intern.*



*His enemies came up the back stairs, fired through the door at him and a bullet grazed the top of his head.*

Set to the music of Handel's "Messiah," the tune sold two million copies of sheet music in 1923 alone.

By the end of 1923, 26,755 patients had been treated at the hospital and 2,950 babies had been born there. Income at the end of 1923 was \$133,141.15.

Steady growth kept up a ceaseless pressure for expansion of hospital facilities. Another building program began that created the north wing of the hospital. It was built along with a new building for the laundry at the contract price of \$158,791.50. X-ray, laboratory, powerhouse and operating room equipment, along with furniture for offices and patients' rooms probably cost another \$100,000.

In August 1928 the new north wing was opened. On June 18 of that year the nation cheered Amelia Earhart when she landed in Wales after a 21-hour flight from Boston. Asked why she did it Miss Earhart replied, "I had planned to spend my vacation flying."

Black Thursday ushered in the big news of the decade when the stock market collapsed October 24, 1929. Within a few weeks of the crash the ranks of unemployed rose from 700,000 to 3.1 million. Just before Franklin Roosevelt's inauguration in 1933, the number approached 15 million or 25 percent of the country's labor force. "Brother Can You Spare a Dime" was a popular song in 1932 and Walt Disney won an Academy Award for his cartoon "The Three Little Pigs" in 1933.

name. He came in with a gunshot wound in his leg and was in a private room. His enemies came up the back stairs, fired through the door at him and a bullet grazed the top of his head. It looked just as if someone ran a barber's clipper over his scalp. He wasn't hurt and returned the fire with a revolver he had under his pillow. His assailants ran out the back door.

"When the stockyards caught fire in the late 1920s everyone was called back to the hospital," Mrs. Felsch continued. "We worked around the clock and were alerted that we might have to evacuate the patients to nearby hospitals. Fortunately, that wasn't necessary.



*It was in offices like this one that the hospital paid all its bills — even during the Depression — and maintained a superior credit rating.*

Everyone should have known our superintendent, Rev. Kienle. He made sure that we received the finest training, and I don't ever recall one of our graduates failing the state board examination. He used to enjoy going up to the nursery and seeing the babies. At Christmas all of us who lived in the nurses' quarters would go through the halls of the hospital singing carols. Each of us would carry a lighted candle. It was just like a family. Through Rev. Kienle's efforts the hospital bonds paid a full six percent all during the Depression."

Despite the nation's painful economic state, the hospital operated at capacity, paid all of its bills and maintained a superior credit rating. In the early '30s the facility accommodated 200 patients along with 60 bassinets in the obstetrics department.

July 13, 1933, Will Rogers wrote: "This fellow Roosevelt can close the banks, he can tell industry how much to pay, and how many hours to work. He can hold back the sun, he can evaporate water. But when he demands that a postmaster has to be able to read, that's carrying dictatorship too far."

Another ESN graduate, Mrs. Marge Kerwin, finished training in 1933 and worked in the hospital for the following year before opting for private duty. "We worked six and a half days a week for \$25 a month," Mrs.



*"Brother Can You Spare a Dime" was a popular song in 1932 as unemployment rose to nearly 15 million.*  
National Archives

Mrs. Frieda Felsch graduated from the Evangelical School of Nursing in 1926 and worked in the hospital for many years. "About 1931," said Mrs. Felsch, "we had a gangster in the hospital under an assumed



Kerwin recalls. "Our dining room in the nurses' quarters was beautiful. We always had linen tablecloths and napkins and were told to bring our own napkin ring when we came to start school. Most of us were given silver napkin rings by our families. Rev. Kienle and Miss Hausmann trained marvelous nurses who were always in demand by other hospitals. Rev. Kienle was on the floors at 5 o'clock every morning to make sure everything was in order and the patients were getting the best possible care."

In its first 25 years of operation, between 1911 and 1936, the hospital treated 100,129 patients and 15,018 babies were born there.

**D**uring the hospital's first 25 years three superintendents served the institution. Rev. John Bollens started when the hospital opened and served until 1913 when he resigned to reenter the pastorate. Rev. Fred Weber succeeded him and was largely instrumental in erecting the hospital's south wing. He served until July 1924, then resigned and was succeeded by Rev. G. A. Kienle who was still serving at the end of the Hospital Association's first 25 years.

During his leadership the hospital continued to expand and advance to a position where it was known as one of the eight major hospitals in Chicago and was accredited by the American College of Surgeons and the American Medical Society. Its services expanded to include general medicine, general surgery, cancer treatment, dermatology, diabetes, gynecology, neurology, obstetrics, ophthalmology, orthopedics, otolaryngology, pediatrics, psychiatry and urology. Its special departments include X-ray clinical pathological laboratory, physiotherapy, electrocardiography and a deep therapy machine with high voltage for the treatment of cancer.

The country gradually recovered from the Depression and then was confronted by threats of war in Europe. The gravity of the problems was relieved slightly by Superman's appearance in Action Comics in June, 1938. Today that comic book is worth \$6,000.

In 1939 the country sang "Beer Barrel Polka" and March 3, 1939, Lothrop Withington, Jr. swallowed the first goldfish and started a craze that swept the nation.

On August 23, 1939, Germany and Russia signed a ten-year non-aggression pact binding each other not to aid opponents in war acts. September 1, 1939, German Panzer units rolled into Poland as Stukas dive-bombed Warsaw. Britain and France began mobilizing and World War II began.

A look at hospital costs in those days was provided by the George Williams College

Health Service Plan for 1937 to '38. It said if confinement is in Woodlawn or Provident Hospitals of Chicago all hospital expenses are covered. If confinement is in any other regularly incorporated hospital, indemnity will be payable for the actual charges made by such hospital for room, board and general nursing care not exceeding \$4.00 per day. In addition, indemnities will be payable for the actual charges made by such hospital — not exceeding \$15.00 aggregate in any one period of hospital confinement — for X-ray examinations, use of operating room and anesthesia, laboratory tests, ordinary medicines and surgical dressings."



*In 1940 Rev. Joseph A. George, superintendent of Evangelical Hospital, reported that the staff had grown to 230.*

Rev. Joseph A. George, superintendent of Evangelical Hospital, presented a report at the annual meeting of the Evangelical Hospital Association which was held in the solarium of the hospital Sunday, January 19, 1941. Rev. George said, "With the large increase in the number of patients admitted, it was necessary to increase the number of employees, so that today we have a staff of 230 who are engaged in the work of the hospital. When you realize that we furnish room and board to about half of this number and furnish one or two meals daily to the remainder, you will see that the dietary department is one of the busiest of all departments."

Looking at 1940 Rev. George said that the daily average of patients for the year was 177 and when the newborn are included it gave a daily average of 213.

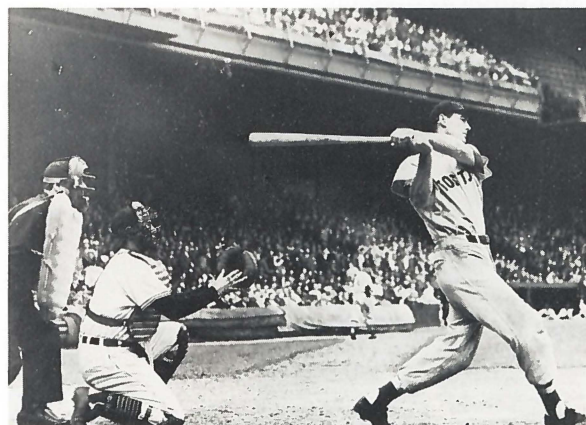
The total number of patients for 1940 was 8,884. It represented 34 different nationalities and 23 different creeds. Rev. George reported many improvements. For example, one of the large operating rooms was remodeled at a cost of \$350 and two large operating rooms were modernized by placing in each a Newcastle operating room light. Each light cost \$425. Another hot water boiler was installed in the boiler room at a cost of \$1,200.



*Mr. Johnson said the hospital would be happy to meet him part way; but since he had put his teeth in a cup where they did not belong, the hospital refused to assume entire responsibility.*

"The outstanding change in the physical properties of the hospital," said Rev. George, "consisted of the purchase of five parcels of land adjoining the hospital, two of them to the north on Morgan Street giving the hospital the entire frontage of the block between 54th Street and 54th Place. This property was purchased at a cost of \$12,000."

Rev. George closed on a positive note. The financial report showed that receipts for 1940 amounted to \$409,875.90 and disbursements, including the purchase of real estate, many improvements and depreciation reserve fund payments, came to \$397,835.47.



*Ted Williams  
National Archives*

Ted Williams batted 406 in 1941 and Joe DiMaggio hit safely in 56 consecutive games. December 7 the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and the nation (and Evangelical Hospital) was thrust into World War II. Many nurses and doctors answered the call and entered military service for the duration.

Hospital staff members wrestled with such things as an OPA order setting the price of cabbage. It contained 26,911 words. That compares with 56 words for the Lord's Prayer, 266 words for the Gettysburg Address and 300 words for the Declaration of Independence.

**H**ospital costs remained remarkably low. The Illinois Hospital Association Bulletin dated September 12, 1944, described the Illinois Blue Cross Plans. The subscribers' contract provided facilities in two-bed rooms if available, three-bed rooms otherwise. The standard agreement and allowance of \$3.50 per day for a period of 30 days only was paid and included meals, nursing service, operating room service, anesthesia and administration of anesthesia, X-ray service, clinical laboratory service, pathological laboratory service, electrocardiograms, basal metabolism examinations, physical therapy, oxygen therapy, all drugs, dressings and plaster casts.

Under the comprehensive agreement it cost an individual 80 cents a month or a family \$2.00 a month. The standard agreement was 60 cents for an individual monthly, \$1.50 a month for a family. It stated that the hospitals should be paid a per diem rate of 97 percent of its actual daily charges to plan subscribers. If the hospital does not furnish an audited statement of its charges, it shall be paid a minimum rate of \$6.00 a day for service under the comprehensive contract and a minimum of \$4.50 per day for service under the standard contract. Maximum payment to any hospital shall be \$8.50 per day, under the comprehensive contract; \$6.00 under the standard contract.

During these war years servicemen and their girls listened to the carefully crafted sounds of Frank Sinatra and danced to Duke Ellington's "Don't Get Around Much Anymore." Rosie the Riveter became famous and zoot suits appeared on the West Coast. Newsweek called the zoot suit "Three to six inches of padding at the shoulders that drips soggly almost to the knees." Kilroy became popular as one of the most memorable figures of the war.



*December 7 the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and the nation, and Evangelical Hospital, were thrust into WWII.  
National Archives*



Miss Marian Drier, R.N., a graduate of ESN in 1944, served in the Army Nurse Corps from 1944 to 1946. "I worked at Evangelical Hospital for a short time after graduation," said Miss Drier, "and then went into the Army. I was stationed in Burma, Chungking and Shanghai and helped set up a general hospital in Shanghai. One of my least fond memories is of living in a tent in Burma during a monsoon. I went back to work at Evangelical in 1946 and then moved over to Christ when it opened."

Miss Drier has been supervisor of central service at Christ Hospital since 1972. "We have more than 1,500 items," she said, "and during the remodeling in 1976 we moved central service into three different locations and were in operation every day during that time."

Although Evangelical Hospital was far from the front lines in the war years, it had its own problems. On February 13, 1945, Mr. J. R. Johnson, assistant to the superintendent, wrote a former patient whose lower plate had been broken. The man had complained that a new one would cost him \$62.50. Mr. Johnson said the hospital would be happy to meet him part way; but since he had put his teeth in a cup where they did not belong, the hospital refused to assume entire responsibility.

**T**hroughout this period the hospital was helped by thoughtful friends.

December 29, 1945, Rev. George wrote to Rev. W. G. McCrory in Chicago thanking him for toy airplanes and tanks that were brought to the children's ward.

That same day Rev. George wrote Miss Dona Morsch of the primary department of Evangelical Reformed Church in Hinckley, Illinois. "My Dear Miss Morsch: Thank you for your letter with a gift of \$3.70 for our children's ward. Several of our nurses went shopping and purchased books and toys for those children who found it necessary to be patients in the hospital on Christmas.

"We placed these gifts under their Christmas tree. Their delight in their gifts proved that Christmas in a hospital can be happy. Please give our appreciation to your primary department."

With World War II ended, the hospital, and the country, settled down to peacetime living. The Toni Twins appeared in 1947 promising beauty in a home permanent bottle. November 20, 1947, "Meet the Press" (NBC) began its run as the longest running television series.

Housing was scarce and in 1949 William Levitt started converting Long Island potato fields into prefabricated suburbs. For \$60 a month with no money down \$7,990 bought

four rooms and an attic, a washing machine, outdoor barbeque and a 12-inch TV set built into the living room wall. When Levittown was completed in 1951 its 17,447 units were home to 82,000 people.

With growing pressures of the increasing patient load at Evangelical Hospital, the EHA board began in the '50s developing plans for Christ Hospital in Oak Lawn.



*"I have many pleasant memories of those years at Evangelical Hospital," recalls Frieda Felsch.*

Frieda Felsch worked in the operating room at Evangelical Hospital for many years after graduating from ESN in 1926 and was on the planning committee for Christ Hospital. "It was obvious," Mrs. Felsch said, "that we were outgrowing our facilities at Evangelical and it was no longer possible to meet the needs by enlarging the present building. I have many pleasant memories of those years at Evangelical Hospital. One man came out of surgery and his feet were like ice. I wrapped a blanket around them and he never forgot it. In nursing it's often the little things that make a big difference."

The planning committee was active in the 1950s in developing a program to create a hospital in Oak Lawn. From the vantage point of the turbulent '60s and '70s, many people recalled the '50s with longing as an oasis of calm. One of the calming influences of that decade could have been Dudley LeBlanc's Hadacol. It sold 2 million bottles a month during its 1950 peak, each one with as much alcohol as a double martini.

Bill Haley and the Comets recorded "Rock Around the Clock" in 1954. It sold 16 million copies and ushered in the age of rock and roll. Two years later Elvis Presley's "Heartbreak Hotel" put him on the road to fame, riches, and eventually his own heartbreak.

At a planning committee meeting held January 16, 1955, the group reported on the purchase of 20 acres of land in Oak Lawn as a site for Christ Hospital.

*Thank you for your letter with a gift of \$3.70 for our children's ward. Several of our nurses went shopping and purchased books and toys.*

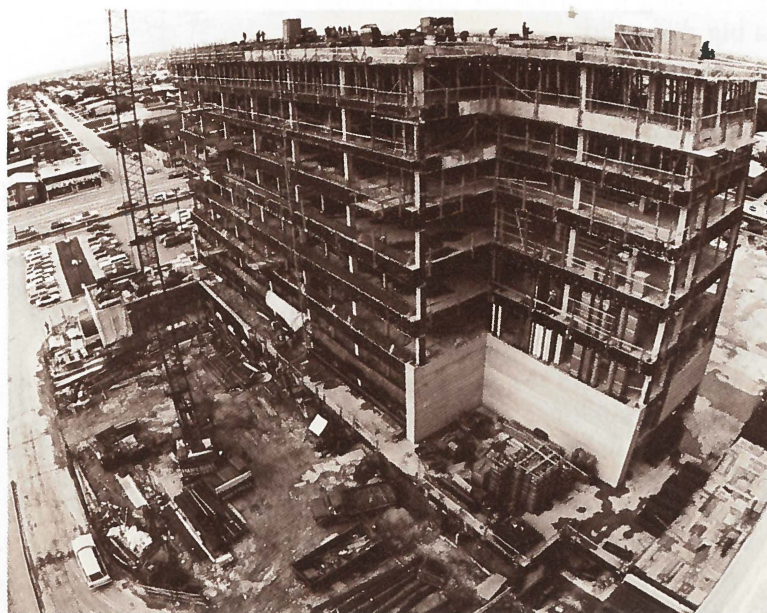


The planning committee report on a meeting held January 15, 1956, noted that between Evangelical Hospital's opening on August 15, 1911, and January 1, 1956, 314,457 patients were admitted and, in addition, 41,376 emergency room cases were treated. At this meeting, the group voted to start raising \$1.5 million and hire an architect to develop plans for the new hospital.

A wide-ranging program enlisted massive community support and the ground-breaking ceremony for Christ Community Hospital was scheduled for November 16, 1958. William E. Schweitzer & Co. was awarded the contract to build the hospital on a bid of \$4,113,130. The contract included 26 possible alternates, depending on the amount of money available.

**A** look at the minutes of various board of directors' meetings reveals the pressure on the members to decide what was feasible. For instance, at a meeting in June 1959 they discussed plans to shell in the fifth floor provided they could raise another \$108,000 and the possibility of shelling in the sixth floor if they got \$216,000. Nearly every board meeting demanded difficult decisions. With faith supported by careful planning and energetic effort, the board members kept the project moving.

The cornerstone was laid on Sunday, September 20, 1959, at 2:30 p.m. Original plans called for a four-story building and when the 195-bed hospital opened, four stories were completed and the fifth and sixth floors were partially completed shells. Christ Community Hospital was dedicated in March 1961 and, with equipment, had cost more than \$6 million.



With faith supported by careful planning and energetic effort, the EHA board members guided the construction of Christ Community Hospital.



This front page of the London Daily Worker, April 12, 1961, headlines the Soviet Union's launching and recovery of an astronaut. Wide World Photos

April 12, 1961, the Soviet Union announced that it had orbited a man in space and recovered him. The space pioneer said, "I feel fine."

Later that year a group of south central DuPage County residents formed the Downers Grove Hospital Association to meet the need for an expansion of hospital services in the area. The area had experienced a population growth of more than 100 percent during the '50s and an additional 57 percent during the 1960s. Seven efforts to start a hospital in the area had failed.

Heavy patient loads at Christ Hospital created mounting pressure for expansion and in 1963 stories five and six were completed, adding 210 beds to the institution. The next year 14 beds were added to the OB floor. In 1965 construction began on a \$1 million, 54-bed addition to be completed the following year.



The 1967 tornado turned the shopping center at 95th and Southwest Highway, (left) to rubble.



Two teenagers who suffered tornado injuries are visited by their mother at Christ Community Hospital. When the tornado hit, Dick, shown in wheelchair, laid his body over his sister, Paula, but was blown away by the impact. Chicago Sun-Times



April 21, 1967, a tornado devastated Oak Lawn leaving 32 dead and nearly 500 more injured. One hundred twenty-nine homes were completely destroyed, another 365 were damaged and the total property loss in Oak Lawn was placed at \$20 million. Fifty-six patients were admitted to Christ Hospital and another 282 persons were treated as out-patients as off-duty staff members rushed back to meet the emergency.

"We had no power and ran the sterilizers manually," said Miss Ruth Huffman, R.N. "We worked around the clock and were aided by Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts who pitched in and helped. I've had some experience with emergencies because I was working at a hospital in New Jersey when the Hindenburg crashed in Lakehurst in 1937. We were called out to the field and worked 48 hours straight."

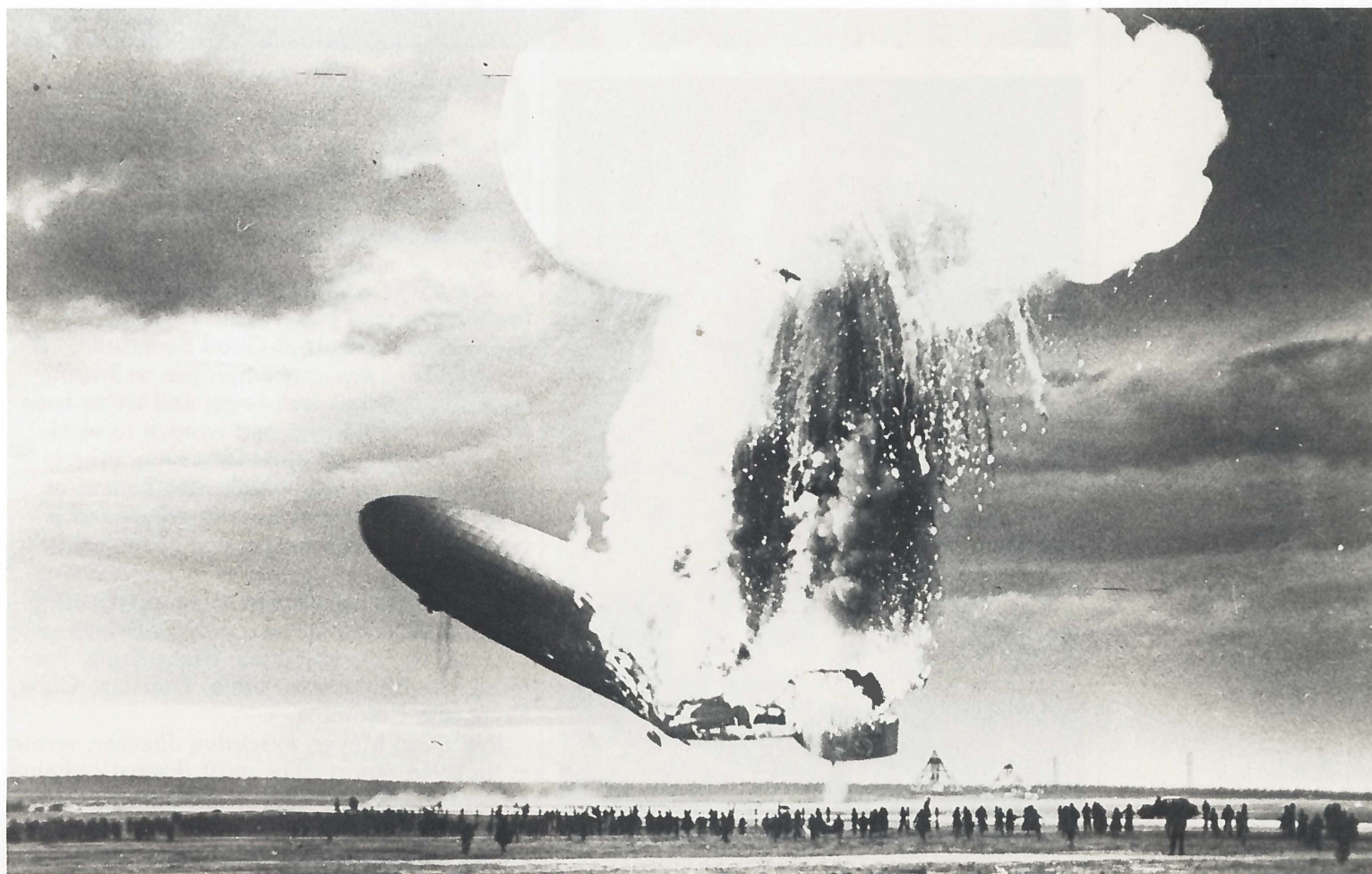
**M**iss Huffman went to work at Evangelical Hospital in 1938 and Christ in 1961. She organized central service at Christ when the hospital opened and was supervisor of that department until she retired in 1972. Since her retirement she has given more than 5,600 hours as a volunteer at Christ.



*Ruth Huffman, R.N., went to work at Evangelical Hospital in 1938, Christ Hospital in 1961 and has volunteered more than 5,600 hours to the Auxiliary of Christ Hospital.*

In 1968 Dean Martin signed the largest TV contract in history, receiving \$34 million for his three-year, no option agreement with NBC. Expanding steadily, Christ Hospital had grown to nine floors and 616 beds by the end of that year.

Dr. Vernon Schick graduated from Rush Medical College in 1928 and began his internship at Evangelical Hospital that year. A youthful 77, Dr. Schick specializes in internal medicine and maintains a busy practice. He was on the staff at Evan. and then moved over to Christ Hospital when it opened.



*"I was working at a hospital in New Jersey when the Hindenburg crashed in 1937," recalls Ruth Huffman, R.N. National Archives*



"It's remarkable the way Christ Hospital continues to grow," said Dr. Schick. "Obviously, it's filling a real need under changing conditions. The pace was far slower and more relaxed when I started at Evan. more than 50 years ago. Since I began practicing I've seen many changes in medicine created by modern technology. Something that has remained constant, however, has been the quality of care provided by the nurses and other staff members. EHA has stressed a Christian commitment in patient care and that has generated an atmosphere resulting in a genuine personal interest in the patient's recovery and welfare."

July 20, 1969, the United States cheered as two American astronauts of Apollo II steered their four-legged lunar module safely and smoothly to a historic landing on the moon at 4:17 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. They were Neil A. Armstrong and Col. Edwin Aldrin, Jr. of the Air Force.

Early in the year, the Evangelical Hospital Association agreed to undertake the Downers Grove Hospital project and obtained support from local communities, the county medical society, neighboring hospitals and other local interest groups. EHA bought the 23 acres that the Church of the Brethren had accumulated along with additional land for a 60-acre health care center.

Officially opening Good Samaritan Hospital with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 11, 1976, were (l. to r.) Edward Shaw, Paul F. Umbeck, D.D., Rudolf Schade, Jr., A. Kenneth Peterson, Mayor Frank M. Jirsa, Rev. Walter Lauer and Harvey I. Kling.



The United States cheered as Astronaut Edwin Aldrin, Jr., walked on the moon in 1969. National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Construction of Good Samaritan Hospital began in late 1973 and the final beam was installed on top of the five-story, 287-bed hospital in August 1975. Costing something over \$35 million, Good Samaritan opened its doors on October 11, 1976.

"We try to create an atmosphere where healing can take place," said Howard Van Scoy, administrator at Good Samaritan. "It's impossible to separate employee well-being from the patient's well-being and we've been fortunate to find men and women to work here who are committed to serving others. We've attracted individuals who believe in God, themselves and helping others and it creates a spiritual climate that promotes health."

Christ Hospital became increasingly international through the years. In 1965 interns on the staff were from Korea, Hong Kong, Formosa, the Philippines, India, Pakistan, Cuba, Egypt and Colombia.

Rev. Karl Meyer, executive director, wrote in the 1966 report "The most dramatic change has come with the advent of Medicare. Reports and paperwork required by doctors and nurses and our business office are tremendous. It has changed the cost concept of hospital charges and now each department is



closely watched through cost accounting while the payment for services rendered has been very slow. At the time this report was being compiled, Christ Hospital had \$244,985.75 coming and Evangelical had over \$110,000 coming from the government for Medicare patients. This backlog necessitated our borrowing \$65,000 to meet payrolls coming due."

On August 1, 1968, Rev. Karl Meyer retired as the executive director of the Evangelical Hospital Association and was honored at a special recognition dinner. He was succeeded by Rev. Paul F. Umbeck as executive director. This followed his five years as general secretary and executive vice president of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, Board of Pensions and Relief.

**I**n his first report Dr. Umbeck identified three problem areas presented by a management consultant's study. These were classified as organization, operation and planning. Dr. Umbeck called for development of a strong team of managers with expertise in their respective fields to handle the association's affairs.

In 1969 the Obstetrics Department at Christ Hospital reported the 25,000th delivery since the hospital opened eight years earlier. On July 15, 1970, Mrs. Edward Bures gave birth to Number 30,000, a baby girl christened Debra.

On April 1, 1971, Gerry Harley, a barber, shaved 130 men in 60 minutes at his shop called The Plough in Gillingham, Kent, England.

On Thanksgiving eve 1971 D. B. Cooper hijacked a Northwest Orient jet, parachuted away with \$200,000 ransom money and disappeared forever somewhere between Seattle and Reno. For some reason he became a national hero.

Frieda Felsch retired from Christ Hospital in 1972 after 46 years of nursing. "I thoroughly enjoyed my profession," Mrs. Felsch said, "or I wouldn't have endured the hardships. Although it was back in 1926, I can still remember how we felt when we graduated and got our pins. Almost all of us had tears in our eyes. I met many, many wonderful people through the years. I recall one patient at Christ who came out of the anesthetic and kept calling me 'her angel.' That really scared me. If I had to retrace my life I'd do it all over again."

On February 12, 1972, the ownership of Evangelical Hospital was transferred from the Evangelical Hospital Association to the Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church, making it the first all-black, religious hospital in

America. The president of the board of directors summed up the reasons for the sale in a statement he gave at a press conference announcing the sale:

"Sixty-five years ago the Evangelical Church founded the Evangelical Hospital in the middle of Chicago's great South Side. The church's mission was to provide physical and spiritual healing to that community. In the ensuing years we believe we have fulfilled that mission well. We have now come to recognize that there are others who can do it better.

"For this reason, it pleases us to be able to transfer the physical plant of the Evangelical Hospital at a minimum cost to those who represent, in part, the present religious and spiritual leadership of the community.

*I thoroughly enjoyed my profession, or I wouldn't have endured the hardships.*



*Ownership of Evangelical Hospital was transferred from EHA to the Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church in 1972.*



*We've been told by patients that they can feel the calming and healing climate in our hospital.*

"It is important that this is the first hospital owned and operated by members of the Black community, but what is even more important is that the medical needs of the community will continue to be met through the tradition of healing in a spiritual atmosphere. To this end, we wish the Tabernacle Community Hospital and Health Center God's blessing."

The Arab oil embargo in 1974 generated the energy crunch and long, angry lines at gas stations, while CB radios filled the airways with "good buddy" talk.

Christ Hospital began a \$26 million expansion program in 1974 that was finished the following year when the new, nine-story south wing opened. With this addition, the bed count reached 809. The hospital's continuing growth created an increasing parking problem that was somewhat alleviated by a \$2 million, five-story, 500-car parking tower that began service in 1975.

The name of Christ Community Hospital was officially changed to Christ Hospital in 1975.

Good Shepherd Hospital in Barrington was dedicated September 23, 1979, after years of planning and fund-raising that began a decade before. The 166-bed facility serves 19 communities. In 1969 the Cary-Fox River Grove and Barrington-Lake Zurich Hospital Associations, along with the Valley Community Hospital Association joined forces to build a hospital that would conform to the state's response to their application.

Late in 1970 the Evangelical Hospital Association was invited to be the official organization to bring a hospital to the area. For the next few years the project was sidetracked in myriad studies and reviews by government agencies. This reached a peak with 27 public hearings in a 13-month period, and then Good Shepherd was the first all-new hospital to be approved by the newly created Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board on May 21, 1976.



*In 1976 ground was broken for Good Shepherd Hospital in an unusual ceremony with about 75 persons pulling ropes attached to a large plow.*

Ground was broken September 26, 1976, in an unusual ceremony with about 75 persons pulling ropes attached to a large plow. "They pulled it right out of the cornfield," said William Sittler, administrator at Good Shepherd.

William Sittler had his first contact with the Evangelical Hospital Association when he was born at Evangelical Hospital. "We look at the wholeness of the patients at Good Shepherd," Sittler said. "We've been told by patients that they can feel the calming and healing climate in our hospital, and we believe this is a result of our efforts to find employees who can add that extra dimension of caring to their technical skills."

In July of 1979 Woodlawn Hospital on Chicago's South Side was merged into the Evangelical Hospital Association. Located just south of the University of Chicago, Woodlawn is a primary care facility. EHA is planning a 142-bed replacement institution to enable Woodlawn to provide optimum health care for the area in the coming years.

Bethany Hospital on Washington Boulevard, just west of Garfield Park in Chicago, is a subsidiary of EHA. When the association took over management of Bethany in 1978 the institution owed \$1 million and in only two years it improved dramatically to a break-even point. In 1979 the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board voted approval for a Certificate of Need for a 212-bed replacement hospital for this area.

The Wholistic Health Center in the Pilgrim-Faith United Church of Christ in Oak Lawn is operated by Christ Hospital and is designed to treat the whole person; body, mind and spirit. Along with a physician, nurse and pastoral counselor, the patient is part of the health care team that approaches his continuing health with an awareness that everything is connected.

As EHA enters its 75th year, Christ Hospital has become an 855-bed teaching facility that provides primary and tertiary care to Chicago's southwest suburbs. Programs include activities designed to foster optimum health, as well as treat the sick. An agreement with Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center provides cooperative programs for the care of patients and education of physicians.

Rev. Edward Goltz is pastor of Pilgrim-Faith Church and an EHA board member since 1972. Rev. Goltz has been chairman of the board since April, 1979. "Our mission is to bring healing to all peoples," said Rev. Goltz. "The big question we face in the future





*"It's important that the Evangelical Hospital Association always remains accountable to the Church so that we retain awareness of our true mission," states Rev. Edward Goltz, board chairman from '79 till '81.*

is whether we can perform our Christian mission as a big corporation. I think it's important that the Evangelical Hospital Association always remain accountable to the Church so that we retain awareness of our true mission."

The corporation's purpose in 1906 was two-fold: 1) To maintain a hospital where the sick are nursed; and, 2) To train nurses skilled in modern healing methods.

Today, the Evangelical Hospital Association is a multi-faceted organization with a systems approach designed to bring maximum effectiveness to bear in finding solutions for any problem. In the face of growth and change, the EHA leadership remains faithful to the vision of the association's founders; to bring healing to those who need it.

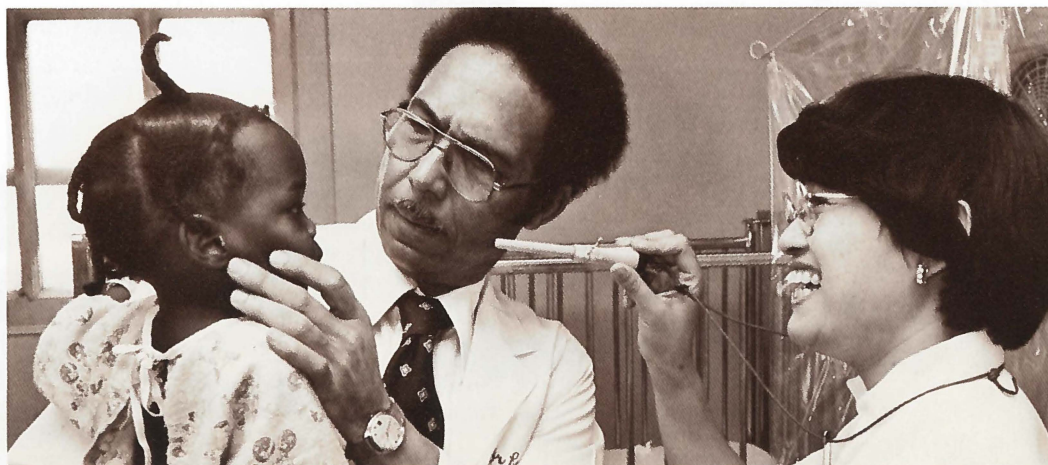
**C**onscious of their background and sensitive to their mission, members of the Evangelical Hospital Association are aware that man is the reality, mankind an abstraction. Help for mankind begins with help for one human being. The Christian commitment to healing is reflected in an ever-widening range of services to meet human needs. People are the heart of the modern hospital and the association has attracted a superb group of skilled health care professionals. Backed by superior equipment and technology, these men and women daily serve the community with compassionate skill.



*Woodlawn Hospital merged into EHA in 1979.*



*The association assumed management of Bethany Hospital in 1978.*



*People are the heart of the modern hospital, and the association has attracted a superb group of skilled health care professionals.*



# Evangelical School of Nursing

Because it was organized as a "Deaconess Hospital," the first call for workers was a request for deaconesses; "Young Christian women with high ideals, with outspoken Christian character and a sincere religious conviction, combined with a heart filled with love and sympathy and a quick response for duty — women who would be willing to assume the obligations and the vows of a consecrated deaconess."



*"We got \$8 a month and room and board during training," recalls Olga Gerhardt, a graduate from the class of 1917.*

When the hospital opened its doors in 1911 the Deaconess Mother House in St. Louis assigned Sisters Anna Bueshel and Anna Nissel to work there. However, almost at once, it was clear that the extensive demands required a trained nursing force. This marked the passing of the deaconess cause in the hospital and created the nurses school which, in turn, marks its 70th birthday in 1981. The school was accredited in 1919 by the State of Illinois.

At the start, two sisters — Alma Wiegman and Minnie Volz — were consecrated, and they were followed by the first class of six members who were known as graduate sisters. Later they were incorporated into the ranks of graduate nurses receiving their R.N. after passing the state examination. Between 1915 and 1924, 52 nurses graduated from the school, and it has been educating fine health care professionals ever since.

The three graduates in 1917 included Olga Gerhardt, Rose Mast Henks and Margaret Meyers Mattix. All three are still living — Miss Gerhardt in Chicago, Mrs. Henks in El Paso, Texas, and Mrs. Mattix in Monticello, Indiana.



*Students at the Evangelical School of Nursing pose outside their residence.*



Olga Gerhardt came from Peotone, Illinois, in September, 1914 after the call went out for young women to train as nurses. "We got \$8 a month and room and board during training," she says. "We had chapel every morning at 6:15 in the nurses' home. Then we went to work from 7 to 7. We also had chapel in the evening, and Rev. Weber would often say, 'Thank you. If it weren't for you young ladies we couldn't make it here.'"

"We were taught to always greet the patient with, 'Good morning, how are you?' We were conscious of saving money, and Rev. Weber told us to be sure and turn off unneeded lights. If we saw a bar of soap in the sink we'd put it on the side so it would last longer.

"After graduating in 1917 I worked at the hospital for five years, the first year in the laboratory and the next four I was in charge of the obstetrical ward. I recall watching one birth and after the baby was born the doctor said, 'Here comes another one.' The mother said, 'Oh, oh, what am I going to do' and the doctor laughed and replied, 'We'll put it on the windowsill.' The care was good, and, if my memory is accurate, it cost only \$11 a week for a patient in a five-bed ward."

Originally christened the German Evangeli-

cal Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing, the facility's name was changed to Evangelical School of Nursing to reflect the hospital's new name during World War I.

The nurses' residence was built in three steps. The first building housed the nurses and was also a residence for the superintendent. As the hospital grew a larger staff of nurses was important, and the superintendent's residence was turned into nurses' quarters too. By the early 1930s the nurses' residence had 100 rooms and housed the nursing staff of the hospital which required 84 graduates and training school nurses for operation.

**I**n the 1926 edition of the Echo, published by the seniors of the school of nursing, Miss Mina Hausmann, superintendent of nurses, wrote: "Having attained an understanding of the fundamentals of service, the next step involves the contributing of our knowledge of 'Christian Love and Service' to others. Association with each other has taught us to be unselfish, patient, obedient and has cultivated the art of well-doing. We emerge from our schools of nursing, courageous well-balanced women with a wholesome outlook on the world in general,

*If we saw a bar of soap in the sink, we'd put it on the side so it would last longer.*







*Amid intense studies, hospital duties and chapel services, four students take time out for a rooftop photo.*

striving constantly to improve ourselves, to study and practice in order to increase the measure of our service."

**T**he 1928 Echo published by the senior class included the Florence Nightingale pledge. "I solemnly pledge myself before God and in the presence of this assembly:

"To pass my life in purity and to practice my profession faithfully.

"I will abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous, and will not take or knowingly administer any harmful drugs.

"I will do all in my power to elevate the standard of my profession, and will hold in confidence all personal matters committed to my keeping, and all family affairs coming to my knowledge in the practice of my profession.

"With loyalty will I endeavor to aid the physician in his work, devote myself to the welfare of those committed to my care."

Humor ran rampant through the 1928 Echo. For example:

Miss Huck, holding a baby in her arms, "I wouldn't mind having a dozen if they all looked like this."

Miss Turnquist: "Say, Peggy, are you letting your hair grow?"

Miss Scofield: "Yes, I can't stop it."

In the 1930 Echo a young lady named Anna May Bremer described her first impression of training: "It took five minutes for my knees to stop shaking before I entered the building. Miss Hausmann was not in her office and I had to wait until she arrived. Being alone I began to wonder whether I really wanted to take up training or not. I was on the verge of making a wild flight when she arrived. One look at her and the question was settled, I would stay."

Some anonymous nursing student wrote on page 38 of that issue of the Echo, "Remember . . . ?

"When Miss Gottwald put the doughnut in the skeleton's mouth and the howls that went up in Dr. Waska's class next a.m.?"

"The pajama parade the morning the bomb went off next door?"

"The skating party and Miss Luke who borrowed a pair of tweed knickers and spent the evening scratching?"

Although the nation was wallowing deep in the trough of the Great Depression in 1932, the yearbook of the graduating seniors bubbled with optimism. Twenty-two graduates selected as their class motto, "Others" and chose "Love Thyself Last" as the class song.

**B**y 1938 the Echo had become a quarterly publication and been renamed the Nurse's Alumnae News. Officers included: Miss Mildred Bierbaum, president; Miss Frieda Schloz, vice president; Mrs. Grace Nelson Braun, recording secretary; Miss Loretta Noltensmeir, corresponding secretary; and Miss Dorothy Bunde, treasurer.

With a vision far ahead of its time, the March, 1938 Echo noted: "The possibility that environment may have some bearing on the cause of cancer was indicated by a national survey by two U.S. Public Health service physicians. Rhode Island, where 156 persons per 100,000 population died of cancer in 1937 at a cancer death rate three times higher than South Carolina, the lowest state. While the south in general has the lowest cancer mortality, New York and New England, the Great Lakes Region and the Pacific Coast have the highest."

In 1940 the students were cheered by a completely remodeled powder room in the nurses' home that cost \$112. In the June, 1940 Echo they laughed at this: Patient's friend: "So you've been in the hospital. Did they put stitches in you?" Patient: "No, I just pulled myself together."



*And there were secrets to share — even in the '30s.*





REMAINS OF THERESA'S WEDDING



CYCLONE



YUM! YUM!



A DOUBLE WEDDING-



A DAYTON SHIEKESS



SOME LOAD



LOTS OF FEET



WHO! WHAT!



PALS



WHAT A SWEETIE

Although the nation was wallowing deep in the trough of the Great Depression in 1932, in the yearbook graduating seniors bubbled with optimism.



**I**n 1942 the Evangelical Hospital Nurses Alumnae Association celebrated its 25th anniversary. Originally this was called the German Evangelical Deaconess Hospital Alumnae Association and was started with the help of Drs. Buhlig, Mundt, Rickfort, Waska, Rev. Weber and Sister Anna Bueshel. The Alumnae Association changed its name at the same time that the hospital became the Evangelical Hospital of Chicago. At the time of the 25th anniversary, membership numbered about 250 nurses throughout the country and serving in the armed forces. Past presidents included Olga Gerhardt, Emilie Heuer, Mina Hausmann, Marie Rudnick, Lorraine Stassen, Irene Parker Ross, Erna Mielke, Victoria Wiechecki Jurgens, Bertha Frook, Ruth Cameron Kurtz, Mildred Bierbaum and Bernice Reithman.

*During those years the patient load increased steadily, and our school of nursing kept growing to keep up with it.*

At the time of the celebration in 1942, charter members still active in the Association included Catherine Gemeinhardt, Emilie Heuer and Olga Gerhardt.

Mrs. Maxine Deufel recently retired as assistant administrator of nursing at Christ Hospital. She was one of 20 ESN graduates in the class of 1940 and worked in the hospital for a number of years. In 1961 Mrs. Deufel organized the Nursing Department at Christ Hospital.

"Our physicians were our teachers when I went to school," said Mrs. Deufel. "When we weren't working in the hospital we were going to class or studying. We took care of the whole patient and got to know the family, too. Today, nurses' roles have expanded and they are doing more things than we used to."

Mrs. Deufel was head nurse on the surgical

medical floors at Evangelical Hospital from 1949 to 1961. "During those years," Mrs. Deufel said, "the patient load increased steadily, and our school of nursing kept growing to keep up with it. Gradually, many of our nursing students started to come from other countries."

Mrs. Deufel's observation is supported by a section in the 1966 EHA Annual Report noting that "the foreign exchange program continues to grow with 40 nurses from the Philippines enrolled at the present time."

**B**rinkman Hall was completed in 1965 with substantial help from Oscar C. Brinkman who donated a 157-acre farm located south of Watseka, Illinois. The farm had been in the Brinkman family for more than 60 years and a major portion of the proceeds from selling the farm was used to build Brinkman Hall. Mr. Brinkman also gave \$45,000 for completion of the chapel. Brinkman Hall includes a five-story dormitory that provides 75 rooms for housing 150 nursing students. The one-story educational unit is part of the facility and is connected to the dormitory.

In 1967 the National League for Nursing granted accreditation to the Evangelical School of Nursing.

Currently, students receive their first-year science courses at Elmhurst College and continue classroom and most clinical work on the Christ Hospital campus. The school also offers continuing education and refresher courses for both active and inactive registered nurses.



Maxine Deufel, R.N., recently retired assistant administrator of nursing at Christ Hospital, (center) shares a moment with those attending a Perinatal Reunion.



In 1979 representatives from the National League for Nursing again visited the Evangelical School of Nursing and granted an eight-year accreditation, to 1987.

"Today, most of our instructors have Master's degrees," said Mrs. Elida Mundt, administrator of the school since 1971. "Clinical classes are smaller with only seven to ten students in each one. For example, we have 22 teachers and about 150 students and are moving toward a wholistic orientation in our program. The curriculum includes a strong emphasis on wellness, and one of our objectives is to heighten the collaboration between nurses and doctors. We also have a continuing education program for registered nurses in the area.

"Not all of our students are youngsters. In 1979 we graduated a 42-year-old mother of six. This year's oldest graduate is 47. As of June, 1980, we've graduated 1,391 nurses from our school. We're still growing and receptive to new developments as we remain aware of our tradition of Christian caring. That continues to be the foundation of our approach to patient well-being."

"The Deaconess' work is of a unique nature, and deserves to be called a Divine Calling in preference to most other vocations. The Deaconess should always remember that she is in the service of the Lord Jesus. First of all she is responsible to Him."

— Page 7, *Principles of Deaconess Work*, published in 1918 by Authority of the Federation of Evangelical Deaconess Associations.



In 1979 the National League for Nursing granted ESN an eight-year accreditation.



Proceeds from the 157-acre Oscar Brinkman farm were used to build Brinkman Hall.



# Hospital Auxiliaries

*The Shedd Company of New York*  
REPORT ON THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OF  
THE GERMAN EVANGELICAL DEACONESS HOSPITAL  
Chicago, Illinois  
CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE YEAR  
ENDING JANUARY 31, 1916

<b>RECEIPTS:</b>		
From Bazaar.....	\$ 1,204.15	\$
From Dues.....	212.00	
From Ice Cream Social.....	46.00	
From Donation in Cash.....	25.00	
From Linen Donation.....	17.39	
From Delinquent Committee.....	5.00	
<b>Total Receipts.....</b>		<b>1,509.54</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS:</b>		
German Evangelical Deaconess Hospital.....	1,000.00	
Sheeting.....	64.74	
Linen.....	40.43	
Towels and Damask.....	42.60	
Crash.....	10.53	
China and Silver.....	56.74	
Rubber Matting.....	54.77	
Stair Wosing.....	12.97	
Cupboard.....	4.50	
Thread.....	4.65	
Printing, Stationery and Postage.....	36.18	
Miscellaneous.....	69.74	
<b>Total Disbursements.....</b>		<b>1,394.07</b>
<b>CASH BALANCE (In Bank).....</b>		<b>\$ 115.47</b>

In April 1915, seven wives of staff physicians of German Evangelical Deaconess Hos-pital organized the Staff Club "to aid the corporate board of directors of the hospital."

Earlier in the year they sent letters to the various Evangelical churches of the city asking that representatives meet to start an aux-iliary.

The members who issued the first call were Mrs. Charles A. Stevens, president; Mrs. J. R. MacNamara, secretary and treasurer; Mrs. Joseph Waska, Mrs. F. C. Weinberger, Mrs. G. H. Mundt, Mrs. G. Knapp; Mrs. Walter H. Buhlig.

**T**hey had met regularly for more than a year of sewing and raising money for the hospital. Although their membership was small at the beginning, they were a positive factor from the outset, and within four years membership had grown to more than 400.

Membership requirements were simple: an interest in the work of the hospital and paying dues of \$1.00 a year. A Life Membership was available for \$25 which was placed in the Life Membership Fund. Among its many successful projects in the early years, the group raised \$20,000 for building the sixth floor solarium and roof garden on the south wing of the new hospital.



Not only a gala event, the Christmas Cotillion produced by the Auxiliary of Christ Hospital provides financial support for the hospital.



The volunteer activities grew steadily with a gift shop, snack bar and a circulating library. By its 25th Anniversary, in 1940, the Auxiliary was rated with the outstanding volunteer programs in the state. In the silver anniversary year Mrs. Esther Kindness was president of the Auxiliary.

The Auxiliary of Christ Hospital began as a chapter of the Evangelical Hospital Auxiliary. Since Christ Hospital opened in February of 1961 the Auxiliary has grown to nearly 1,200 members and is active in more than 50 areas of hospital service. Fifteen women who had been volunteers at Evangelical Hospital are still serving at Christ, and 26 more who started when the hospital opened are still working as volunteers today.

Miss Ruth Huffman, R.N., worked at Evangelical Hospital for 33 years and now is a volunteer at Christ. A youthful 76, Miss Huffman has given more than 5,600 hours in volunteer service at the hospital.

**V**olunteers at Christ range in age from Candy Stripers at 15 to Frieda Feichtinger, 82. Positive and highly effective, the Auxiliary developed a recreational program for patients that has served as a model for many other hospital volunteer organizations. The program developed after a request in 1963 from the medical department

to devise projects that would divert patients' attention from their illnesses.

The Auxiliary responded with a multi-faceted program geared to needs of patients in three different hospital areas: dialysis, pediatrics and general units.

Dialysis patients, who have only one arm free, enjoy such projects as mosaic plates, bowls and trivets, stained glass ornaments, hand-tooled brass impressions and decorative wood burnt wall plaques.

**P**ediatrics patients are 12 years old and younger and make Christmas ornaments, mobiles, Popsicle stick frames for pictures, Easter baskets, hanging planters, collages, yarn pictures and pen and pencil containers from juice cans. Magic slates and books for reading and coloring are also favorites with this group.

Patients on general floors create decorative Easter eggs and busts of Victorian ladies from L'eggs hosiery containers, make miniature flowers from felt and pipe cleaners, enjoy paint-by-number sets and building model ships, cars and airplanes from kits.

All of the craft kits are designed and assembled by volunteers. New kits are constantly being designed from available materials, many of which are donated.

"The Auxiliary members at Christ Hospital give more than 80,000 hours a year," explained Mrs. Vicki Vlasic, director of volunteers. "We have our own department and have raised more than \$2 million for Christ Hospital during the years our group has been active. One of our more interesting projects has been the 'Fathers' Book' we installed in the O.B. department. New fathers write their thoughts in the book and reading them is sometimes humorous and more often very moving. Christ Hospital, incidentally, delivers more babies than any other hospital in the state."

The annual Christmas Cotillion, which began in 1959, is another activity developed and supported by the Auxiliary of Christ Hospital.

The Good Samaritan Hospital Auxiliary dates back to November, 1970 when Mrs. June Grotefeld interested some friends in participating at the Health Care Fair in Yorktown. They exhibited a model of the proposed hospital at the fair in 1970, '71 and '72. Mrs. Grotefeld's friends included Mrs. Natalie Godfrey, Mrs. Pat Hebden, Mrs. Sharon Kennedy, Mrs. Barbara Lambke, Mrs. Ruth Ann Mason, Mrs. Marguerite Pederson, Mrs. Julie Pedrotty, Mrs. Beverly Phillips, Mrs. Helen Roth and Mrs. Marion Stengel.

*Membership requirements were simple: an interest in the work of the hospital and paying dues of \$1.00 a year*





The Auxiliary held its first official meeting October 16, 1972. Eleven women attended and officers were elected: Mrs. June Grotefeld, president; Mrs. Lois Umbeck, vice president; Mrs. Barbara Kieft, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Justine Fleming, secretary; and Mrs. Elna Gruenwald, treasurer. EHA had prepared a nine-minute motion picture called "Developing Your Dream" in 1972 and the Auxiliary showed this to many different groups in the area.

The group moved into high gear in 1973 with its first major fund-raising project — a Valentine Ball at the Oak Brook Hyatt House on February 17, 1973. The theme of the highly successful event was "Have a Heart, Be a Good Samaritan."

The Gingham Tree — a resale shop — opened June 1, 1973 and featured its first promotion, a benefit jean sale on August 10. The store is staffed by volunteers and open six days a week. The Daisy Basket — a gift shop — and the Yellow Mug — a snack shop — opened soon after and have contributed substantial sums to Good Samaritan.

When the Evangelical Hospital Auxiliary disbanded there was \$11,000 in the treasury; the Auxiliary at Christ received \$6,000 and the other \$5,000 went to Good Samaritan's Auxiliary who used it to stock the Gingham Tree.

"One of our most effective activities," explained Mrs. Agnes Beeson, 1980 president, "is our Pediatric Orientation Program. This is directed to second-grade audiences and familiarizes youngsters with hospital procedures and personnel. Seven students and three volunteers assume the roles of staff and medical personnel and a patient about to undergo a tonsillectomy. It's all pretending, and the children find it a fascinating experience.

"Following the program the children receive a 'goody bag' containing a surgical mask, bottles, medicine cup, tongue depressor, future nurse's aide's and doctor's caps and a Band-Aid. During 1980 more than 1,000 youngsters took part in the program, and the response from teachers and parents has been outstanding."



The Good Samaritan Hospital Auxiliary designed the Pediatric Orientation Program to reduce youngsters' fears of hospitalization.



A fall fashion show, dinner dance and Oktoberfest are among the Good Samaritan Auxiliary's many activities.

Regular events include a dinner dance in the spring, a fall fashion show and Oktoberfest. Among its many activities the Auxiliary sponsors a Lamaze Program for prospective mothers and their husbands and a monthly blood donor day. The Candy Striper Program began in 1980, and the Auxiliary's current membership totals 300.

"The Auxiliary is the helping hand of the hospital," said Mrs. Lois Umbeck, who served as president of the group in 1975 and '76. "One of our most satisfying projects has been furnishing the hospital chapel. We raised and donated \$50,000 for this which includes a handsome three-sided altar hand-carved from Honduras mahogany as well as specially commissioned stained glass windows."

As of October 1980 the Auxiliary of Good Samaritan volunteers have donated 209,194 hours. The group has raised and contributed \$359,610 directed to such needed equipment as a cardiac monitor, Mammorex X-ray machine, closed circuit TV for the hospital, blood pressure monitors and many other items.

The Auxiliary of Good Shepherd Hospital preceded the facility's opening by 13 years. In the fall of 1966 the Cary-Grove Community Hospital Association was chartered and a coffee for 50 women was held in early January, 1967 at the home of Mrs. Helen DeMarco. Mrs. Jean Figge was named chairman of the steering committee and under the leadership of these two women and Mrs. Beverly Ebert, smaller neighborhood coffees were arranged, recruiting members at a \$5 membership fee.

By the first general membership meeting on March 14, there were already 200 charter members. Officers of the newly formed Auxiliary included Mrs. Jean Figge, president; Mrs. Teckla Seitz, vice president; Mrs. Marion Zeilstra, recording secretary; Mrs. Barbara Mohrbacher, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Iram Franke, financial secretary; Mrs. Lucille Schreiber, treasurer. Membership

*"This 'n That," started off in the pink because one member donated a gallon of pink paint left over from a home decorating job.*



in the Auxiliary grew steadily and passed 800 within the following months.

A variety of fund-raising projects, such as the Wheel of Hope Resale Shop, generated publicity to keep the need for a hospital in the public eye. At the same time, the Auxiliary made significant financial contributions for feasibility studies and legal representation in gaining a state permit for a hospital.

Three more chapters were organized in 1970. The first — Wauconda-Island Lake — began in April of 1970 when a small group of women gathered at the home of Mrs. JoAnn Green to hear Mrs. Glenda Van Hoorn explain the goals. The next week, on April 29, the group met at the home of Carol Wahl to actually establish an auxiliary chapter. A number of meetings were held to generate interest. Some were very successful and others less so — such as the meeting in Larkdale where only the Avon lady showed up.

May 27, 1970, the first general meeting was held at the Wauconda High School, and a strong turnout got the chapter moving in high gear. In December, 1970 the Wauconda-Island Lake chapter opened the "Elephant's Trunk," a gift and thrift shop on Mill Street in Wauconda. Many other fund-raising projects included dances, bake sales, tag days, flowers and anything else the innovative members thought of.

The Lake Zurich-Long Grove chapter held its first meeting May 28, 1970, in St. Peter United Church of Christ in Lake Zurich and soon boasted a membership of 182. Soon after, a Junior Auxiliary was formed, giving the 12 to 18 year olds a chance to help. The chapter's purpose was to aid the Joint Committee for an Area Hospital by raising funds for the building program and fostering public support for an area hospital.

The Lake Zurich-Long Grove chapter plunged into a wide-ranging program involving an exercise and swim group, Alpine booth, Alpine parade (their first entry took first prize), rummage sales, tag days, fashion shows, talent shows, bake sales, ice cream socials and puppet shows.

The resale shop named "This 'n That," by Mrs. Dorothy Kuhlman opened Sunday, December 6, 1970. It started off in the pink because one member donated a gallon of pink paint left over from a home decorating job.

The Barrington chapter received its charter at St. Mark's Church in Barrington Hills on June 18, 1970. Mrs. Loisjean Moody was elected first president at the charter meeting. The Barrington group included 15 different villages.

On November 2, 1970, the chapter opened a thrift shop across from the Northwestern railroad station. They named the store "Catchpenny," an ancient term meaning both "thrift" and "something obtained for little and sold for more." Mrs. Nancy Whaley and Mrs. Gloria Gibeau were managers the first year.

Various money-raising activities were highly successful, including "Dining Drama" in the spring of '71, '72 and '73 along with "Bidder's Bonanza," an auction and dinner held in the fall of those years. The tradition of Luminaria was started in the Christmas of 1971 and has continued to the present.

In the fall of 1973 the four chapters of the Auxiliary decided to form an All-Auxiliary Board and elected their first president, Mrs. Phyllis Ehrke. Representatives to the All-Auxiliary Board are elected from each chapter. Today, the Good Shepherd Auxiliary numbers about 1,400 members and plays an important and highly effective role in the hospital.

Through the years, the Auxiliaries of Evangelical, Christ, Good Samaritan and Good Shepherd Hospitals have donated more than 750,000 hours and \$3.5 million dollars.



Books, records, clothing and household items are among the finds to be had at the thrift shop run by the Auxiliary of Christ Hospital.



Art in the Barn, a two-day exhibit and sale, has been a successful public event for the Auxiliary of Good Shepherd Hospital for six years.



# Our Christian Heritage

It has been said that "God is the help of the helpless." The Evangelical Hospital Association shares the rich spiritual tradition of the Evangelical Church. It is a tradition sensitive to the needs of others and keenly aware of the role of Christian service as a witness to God's love.

**I**n the United States, our religious heritage dates back to the 1830s when German Evangelicals emigrating from Germany and Switzerland began settling in Missouri and Illinois. Some had landed in Atlantic ports and traveled across the country by canal, lake, river and overland. Others came by way of New Orleans and up the Mississippi River. Both groups occupied the principal centers of population, especially along the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, and many of the travelers settled around St. Louis. In most cases poor and unable to speak English, these men and women were sustained by a remarkable faith and courage as they journeyed through a strange country.

During these years the German Evangelicals developed itinerant ministries to colonies of their people. Foreign mission societies in Basel, Switzerland, and Barmen, Germany, became interested in the German pioneers and sent missionaries to serve their spiritual needs. The early missionaries included such famous names of Evangelical history as Friedrich Schmid, John Gerber and John Jacob Riess. George Wall and Joseph Rieger came from Basel in the 1830s. They went to St. Louis and then Rieger moved on to Alton

and later to Beardstown and Bellevue. Riess served the Germans at Turkey Hill, Centerville and Belleville, all in Illinois.

On September 28, 1840, Wall, Louis Nollau, Hermann Garlichs, John Jacob Riess, Philip Heyer and Karl Daubert met at Gravois Settlement on the outskirts of St. Louis. It was at this first meeting that Der Kirchenverein des Westens (The German Evangelical Church Society of the West) was formed. In 1860 the name was changed to German Evangelical Synod.

The Verein founded in 1840 was, in many ways, a missionary society. Its pastors had a deep commitment to carrying the Word of God and felt it their calling to preach to their widely scattered brethren. Regardless of blazing sun, pouring rain or biting cold; they traveled on foot or on horseback to minister to destitute German people wherever they could be found. On their travels they either organized new congregations or encouraged those in existence. Their work prospered and local missionary societies were formed in many congregations.

**T**wo ministers — William Binner and Adolph Baltzer — were powerful forces in the church's expansion in the middlewest. Binner served as the first professor of the theological school founded in Marthasville, Missouri, in 1849. He was joined by Andreas Irion in 1852. After Binner was injured in a fall from his horse, Irion took over his position at the seminary. Baltzer served as pastor of a church in



*These women from the German Evangelical Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing, Class of 1919, were among the first health care professionals to carry out EHA's tradition of Christian caring.*



Waterloo, Illinois, and then was named president of Missouri College and a professor in the seminary.

This was the start of Eden Seminary which was renamed in 1863 when it moved from Marthasville to St. Charles, Rock Road, St. Louis. In 1925 it was moved to its present location in Webster Groves, Missouri.

The German Evangelical Synod founded two schools: the seminary at Marthasville and an academy in Elmhurst, Illinois. Elmhurst was the school of the Synod and opened in 1871 with the name Elmhurst Pro-Seminary. Its founders listed two primary objectives: 1) To prepare young men for the teaching profession in the many parochial schools associated with the churches; and, 2) To prepare young men for entry into the seminary.

**G**roups of German-speaking people in America who had been members of the Evangelical Union in Europe formed Vereins in their own areas. By 1872 there were three or four in addition to the original group near St. Louis and in that year they consolidated into one body. In 1877 they became the German Evangelical Synod

of North America. At that time there were 340 pastors in charge of congregations.

Under the leadership of Adolph Baltzer and other presidents, the Evangelical Synod swiftly expanded its activities and influence. It created boards for home and foreign missions, Christian education, pensions and relief, evangelism and social action.

Heavily influenced by its background of German pietism, the Evangelical Synod worked persistently to provide for orphans, the aged and invalids. A broad range of projects included hospitals, orphanages, homes for the aged and other activities. Through its Board of Missions the Synod started and funded programs to help the underprivileged and isolated communities in the Ozarks, Biloxi, Madeline Island and St. Louis.

The Synod's doctrine accepted the historic confessions of the Reformation — such as the Augsburg Confession, Luther's Catechism and the Heidelberg Catechism. Wherever the three disagreed, the polity of the church affirmed: "We adhere strictly to the passages of the Holy Scripture bearing on the subject, and avail ourselves of the liberty of conscience prevailing in the Evangelical Church."



*When the cornerstone of the German Evangelical Deaconess Hospital was laid in 1911, the association joined in the rich spiritual tradition of the Evangelical Church.*

*Heavily influenced by its background of German pietism, the Evangelical Synod worked persistently to provide for orphans, the aged and invalids.*



In a move toward union, meetings between Evangelical and Reformed pastors were held in Baltimore in 1927; Appleton, Wisconsin, in 1928; and elsewhere. After a series of conferences, the Plan of Union was consummated at a historic meeting in Cleveland on June 26, 1934. That evening the uniting processions were led by Paul Press and Louis W. Goebel for the Evangelical Synod and Henry J. Christman and George W. Richards for the Reformed Church. Richards was elected the first president and Goebel the vice president of the new Evangelical and Reformed Church.

**I**n the 1940s and '50s the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches explored the possibility of unity. After years of talks and negotiations the union was sealed in Cleveland, Ohio, as the United Church of Christ was born on June 25, 1957. And on that date, the Evangelical Hospital Association became an affiliate of the United Church of Christ.

Through these transitions the Evangelical Hospital Association has retained the sense of mission that motivated Rev. Benjamin Ott and the group who founded the association in 1906. Healing the sick, comforting the lonely, building homes for the orphaned; these are all products of our beliefs. Many years ago when a pastor was challenged by opponents about plans to build an orphanage and a home for the aged his answer was simple and moving: "Die liebe Christi dringet uns also." (The love of Christ constraineth us.)

We believe that when a human being reaches out to aid another, this is the hand of God in action. We try to remember, too, that when the sick, the orphaned, the homeless and the lonely reach out for help; this too is the hand of God.



*Sister Lina Braun (center) of the Protestant Deaconess Home and Hospital, Evansville, Ind., wore one of the earliest deaconess school caps. Sister Beata Schiek (left) and Sister Amalie Matthis (right of Sister Lina) wore the Kaiserswerth cap in this photo from around 1916.*





1.



2.



3.

*Stained glass windows:*

1. Patients at the Evangelical Hospital entered a doorway below this window which now hangs in the corporate offices.

2. Donated by the Auxiliary, the Peg Galapeaux Memorial window in Christ Hospital's Siemers Chapel was dedicated in 1979.

3. David Thrun of the Village Green in Benton found this fine example of the German-American stained glass technique at a Christian church in Little Rock, Arkansas. He purchased the window, which dates back to the late 1800s, as a gift for Good Shepherd Hospital.



# Milestones

- 1906 Reverend Benjamin Ott, Louis Kohlmann, Hermann Muller, Paul Foerster and Fred Kressmann met at Salem Church in Chicago to organize a deaconess society. A corporation charter was issued September 30 to the Evangelischer Diakonie Verein of Illinois.
- 1910 The cornerstone for a two-story hospital was laid at 5421 South Morgan Street in Chicago.
- 1911 Built at a cost of \$19,950.18, the 60-bed German Evangelical Deaconess Hospital was completed and dedicated on August 22.
- 1915 In April, seven wives of the hospital's staff physicians organized the Staff Club "to aid the corporate board of directors of the hospital."
- 1919 The Evangelical Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing was accredited by the State of Illinois.
- 1923 The hospital's new south wing and power house were completed at a cost of \$361,237.11 and dedicated on Sunday, September 6.
- 1928 The north wing, plus a new building for the laundry, were dedicated in August. Construction costs were \$158,791.50 and equipment another \$100,000.
- 1942 The Evangelical Hospital Nurses Alumnae Association celebrated its 25th Anniversary. Membership numbered about 250 nurses throughout the country and serving in the armed forces.
- 1955 At a planning committee meeting held January 16, the group reported on the purchase of 20 acres in Oak Lawn as a site for Christ Community Hospital.
- 1961 Christ Community Hospital was dedicated in March with four stories completed and the fifth and sixth floors built as shells. Costing more than \$6 million, the hospital opened with 195 beds.
- 1961 Also in that year, a group of south central DuPage County residents formed the Downers Grove Hospital Association.
- 1963 The fifth and sixth floors of Christ Community Hospital were finished, adding 210 beds.
- 1965 Construction was completed on ESN's Brinkman Hall — a five-story dormitory and one-story educational unit, and construction started on a 54-bed, \$1 million addition to Christ Community Hospital, to be completed in 1966.
- 1968 Nine floors completed at Christ Community Hospital, bringing the bed count to 616.
- 1969 EHA agreed to undertake the Downers Grove Hospital project and bought the 23 acres that Church of the Brethren had accumulated, along with additional land for a 60-acre health care center.
- 1972 Ownership of Evangelical Hospital was transferred from EHA to the Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church.
- 1975 The name of Christ Community Hospital was officially changed to Christ Hospital. Constructed at a cost of more than \$26 million, the hospital's new nine-story south wing opened, bringing the bed count to 809. A five-story, 500-car parking tower was completed at a cost of \$2 million.
- 1976 Good Samaritan Hospital opened its doors October 11 as a five-story, 287-bed facility. It had cost approximately \$35 million.
- 1978 EHA contracted management of Bethany Hospital on the West Side of Chicago.
- 1979 Woodlawn Hospital on Chicago's South Side was merged into EHA in July, and Good Shepherd Hospital was dedicated September 23 as a 166-bed institution serving 19 communities.
- 1979 The Wholistic Health Center, operating out of the Pilgrim-Faith United Church of Christ, Oak Lawn, opened in December to provide full range whole-person health care.
- 1980 The Evangelical Hospital Association purchased a 104,500-square-foot facility in Oak Brook to house a variety of management and shared services in support of its hospitals and health care facilities.
- 1981 The United Church Residences — two complexes totalling 270 apartment units in Downers Grove — opened in the first quarter. The rent-controlled housing is for persons 62 years of age and older or handicapped. The project is sponsored by the Immanuel United Church of Christ, Peace Memorial United Church of Christ and EHA.





Auxilians (far left) marched on the Lake County Building in 1975 to show their support for the proposed Good Shepherd Hospital.

(Left) Christ Hospital's auxiliary recreation program chairman, the late Sophie Favaro, designed the silk screen pattern for the pediatric pillow in the 1960s.



(Above) During the 1980s the Evangelical School of Nursing continues to meet the nation's growing demand for professional nurses by graduating well prepared students.



The health care industry has come a long way from the stark setting of this men's ward from the early 1900s.



# The Years Ahead

"Where there is no vision, the people perish."  
— Proverbs 29:18

For 75 years the Evangelical Hospital Association has successfully blended skills, technology, concern and thoughtful planning to meet the health needs of hundreds of thousands of human beings. Through two world wars, economic upheavals, the Nuclear Age and the Space Age, EHA has consistently transformed problems into opportunities for greater service.

While the world has changed dramatically in the three-quarters of a century since EHA's founders met at Salem Church in Chicago, the vision has remained clear: a Christian commitment to healing the sick. While forecasting is a hazardous profession, we can speculate on some needs and many opportunities in the years ahead.

Looking at the future, Executive Vice President John King said, "In the last few years, EHA has become a multi-hospital system — one of the largest in Illinois. Today, 30 percent of the community hospitals in the United States are managed by a firm of two or more institutions. This is the direction of the future, and the Evangelical Hospital Association is in the forefront of this movement. A realistic look at the years ahead suggests that EHA will become a regional force in health care with a strong possibility of reaching national stature."

To effectively meet its goals for the coming decade, EHA will need to fully develop the capabilities of its supervisory and management personnel. To this end EHA has devised a management development program called EXCEL. It is a solidly conceived response to the needs of the 80s. It provides a carefully designed program to produce highly competent, motivated health care professionals.

"We approach change as something that can be shaped, and our program will enable us to handle change positively and effectively," said Robert Moore, director of development. "Already we are coping with such problems as the inner-city hospital. Our programs for Bethany and Woodlawn are successful examples of our mission in the inner-city."

In the next decade EHA will wrestle with some theological issues that are ethical and that, for the most part, the religious community has failed to address. These include:

- Abortion
- Genetic manipulation
- Surrogate parenting
- Euthanasia
- Organ transplants
- Test-tube babies

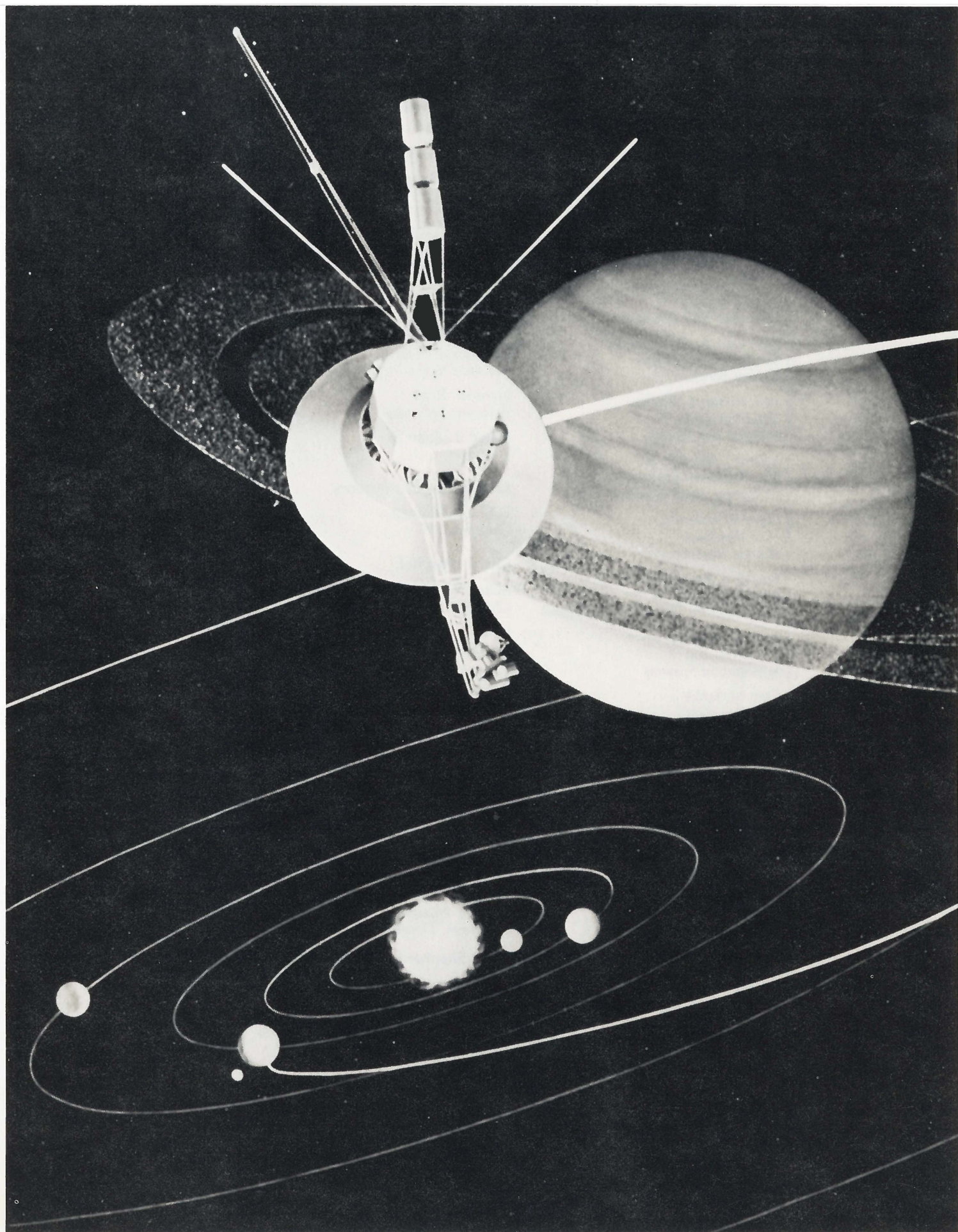
"Along with these issues and others, such as alcoholism and drug abuse," said Moore, "we face the question of improving the quality of life for the aged. Not just to keep them alive but to capitalize on their wealth of experience and wisdom. A priceless asset, the elderly are generally ignored in our society and their needs represent a major challenge in the years ahead."

A panel of medical experts, the Graduate Medical Education Advisory Committee, has pointed out that by 2000 there will be 643,000 physicians in the United States. This will create a twofold effect that will be beneficial: 1) Doctors will work fewer hours, probably dropping from today's 57 hours a week to about 40; and, 2) There will be a much better distribution of physicians in rural areas.

"One of the questions we face in the future," said John King, "is the best utilization of the systems approach, which is the most effective way to combat rising health care costs. On the other hand, EHA leadership is committed to avoiding the dangers of growth simply for the sake of growth. The directors are keenly aware of our religious heritage and the urgency of maintaining a close relationship with the Church. This retains a top priority in all planning because the Christian commitment to healing is the reason EHA began in the first place."









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William S. Grotefeld  
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